

'WANDERERS WILL NOT MISS HORSEMAN'

... and now
Busby
stakes
his claim

Wycombe Wanderers
Reserves 4,
Dulwich Hamlet Reserves 1

VIV BUSBY put forward his application for Tony Horseman's first-team place with an in more than one sense, opportunistic hat-trick against Dulwich Hamlet Reserves at Loakes Park on Saturday (writes Patrick Vercoe).

With the first team without a fixture, I suspect, like me, following the shock news of Horseman's resignation earlier in the week, a number of the Wanderers supporters watched the match to see if there was a likely candidate to take on the ageing mantle.

In a rather mundane and pedestrian-paced game it was Busby's hat-trick which lifted the afternoon's proceedings, coupled with captain John Pratt's faultless exhibition of goalkeeping.

After ten minutes Wycombe went ahead as Kurka, with a clever reverse pass, gave Busby the opening to shoot in from just two yards out.

However, five minutes later (which equaled with a well-taken goal, Pratt did well to block a drive and Berry bounced on the rebound which he eluded in effortlessly.

Just two minutes from the break, Wycombe regained the lead with a fine set-piece goal from a corner. Kurka flicked the ball into the area where Reed, Howard, Pratt and Busby, moving in, bent forward to head in.

Following the break, wing-half Rogers moved forward to put Wycombe reserves in a commanding position with a 60th minute goal.

The game became slower as the contest entered its final stages although the individual exchanges heated up. Busby became the target for some over zealous tackling and in one clash lost part of his shirt torn away from his right shoulder.

Also, he received a stern lecture from the referee for showing dissent at a throw-in decision which did not meet entirely with his approval.

However, it was Busby who had the last laugh when, with a minute remaining, Kurka made a fine run and his cross was headed in by Busby, standing close in, to complete his trio.



TONY HORSEMAN... will not be missed?

'GREAT' ODDS TOO MUCH FOR MARLOW

Epsom and Ewell 0, Marlow 0

IN QUITE deplorable pitch conditions, Marlow were able to make no capital at all out of their Athenian League, Division 2 game at Epsom on Saturday. Although the better footballing side, a rugged home defence and the conditions, as well as their own lack of ability to get the ball in the net, proved too great odds against them.

The game had its moments of excitement but these were few and far between, apart from Epsom's last desperate throw 30 minutes from the end.

At the end of the day none of the spectators could honestly say they had enjoyed the spectacle. As for the 25 men on the field, their endurance must have been taxed to the limit, 90 minutes it would be fair to say justice was done.

Pattern for the missed chances buoyed, which dogged the game, was set right in the first minute. Ray Palmer seemed to create an easy scoring chance for himself when he lofted the ball high over the goal.

But it was a fraction too late to meet it on its way down. Then Bobby Marcham, Marlow's best forward on the day, missed what looked a comparatively easy scoring chance by

By PATRICK VERCOE

STAR FORWARD Tony Horseman is not indispensable. This seems to be the general consensus of opinion among Wycombe Wanderers' supporters who attended Saturday's reserve fixture at Loakes Park.

Horseman announced his resignation from the club earlier last week with the words, "I think it is about time for a change". He had been with Wanderers for seven seasons and during that time had scored many valuable goals.

Surprisingly enough, talking to Wanderers' fans on the terraces during Saturday's reserve game against Dulwich Hamlet, I discovered a lot of criticism of Horseman and his style of play.

Many fans felt he had been living on past achievements, especially during the last two seasons, following his 81 goals in the 1966-67 campaign.

The main condemnation of Horseman was his lack of work-rate in midfield. Although he had scored a tremendous amount of goals, many were of the opinion that he also missed quite a number.

Nevertheless, it cannot be ignored that Horseman's resignation is a body-blow to the club. After all, his razor-sharp reactions and astute eye for the half-chance inside the box were the chief elements of his game attributes that made him feared throughout the amateur sphere.

If a player's main task is to score goals it is no good having him grafting in mid-field. Too much attention nowadays is placed on work-rate and team contribution. It is goals that decide matches and not the amount of effort supplied outside the 18-yard area.

Although Horseman was a moody player there is no doubting his ability. However, at Wanderers, the rest of the team was geared to fit in with his style. He received invaluable support from Keith Samuels and supporters felt that Horseman will miss "Sammy" to a very large extent.

Now that Horseman has gone, who fills the breach? There is no doubt that if the man on the terraces was choosing the side then Viv Busby would get the go-ahead.

Of course, Wanderers may decide to try and replace Horseman with another star forward. But if Busby was given the job and persevered with, I believe he could turn out to be a first-class striker.

It is now left with coach Brian Lee to give Busby a vote of confidence in his ability. Of more paramount importance is for Busby to believe he can accept the responsibility. I think he can.

He hit the ball so hard it went

What the fans say



Gerald Cox of Bourne End (right), who has been a Wanderers supporter 15 years, "Of course we will miss Tony but I feel he will suit the support of Keith Samuels, who helped him such a great deal. Busby must be an obvious replacement."



Jack Atkins (right), also from Huddersfield, a Wycombe supporter of 8 years, "I am very sorry to see Tony leave but in young Busby we have a player who has a higher work-rate than Horseman and is also capable of scoring goals."



Mrs. Jennifer Graham (right), who has been watching Wycombe some 12 months and attends games with her husband Robert, gave the woman's angle, "I think Horseman will be missed, whenever I watch them he always seemed to be the key to the situation."

Bernard Carvell of Marlow (left), who has been watching Wanderers since 1962, "I feel the majority of supporters will not be sorry to see Horseman go, besides he never gives 100% in a game and it's about time Viv Busby was given a chance."



Groff Sutton (left), a regular fan of 14 years' standing from Huddersfield, "Horseman scored most of the goals but also missed a great number that were laid on for him. Scoring goals is a Wanderers' failing but Busby is the candidate for the spare place."



Lawrence Wright (left), 11 years watching the Blues, lives in Booker, commented, "Naturally I am sorry to see Horseman leave, he has done a lot for Wycombe. If he wants to go he is entitled to do so. Whoever takes over it will be very difficult for the player concerned."



Saints allow Cup-tie to slip

Huntley & Palmer 3,
Chalfont St. Peter 3

CHALFONT ST. PETER made the mistake of allowing the Spartan League Cup, 1st round, game to slip out of their grasp in the first half. Early into the second period they were 3-0 down—thus leaving themselves too great a target to achieve in the limited time available.

The two first-half goals came as a result of indecisive clearances in defence which the home team were quick to seize upon, Richardson in particular looking for any opening and scoring two of their goals.

Until the scoring was opened in the 25th minute the Saints had had more than their fair share of the game. But at the crucial times their attack was not sufficiently forward to do anything about it and the one or two luke-warm efforts they made at shooting were easily taken care of by goalkeeper Nutt.

John Heath, back at number six, played very well and saved an awkward situation in the fifth minute, by cutting out Withers who had straggled away with the ball following a pass by Josey.

In the next minute Tony Bowler, in goal for the Saints with Frank Howard still suffering from the injured back he received last week, saw a long shot by Richardson go into the corner of the net but Withers was given off-side.

After 24 minutes, following a loose clearance by the Chalfonts, Richardson got his first goal. With two minutes to go for half-time, Derek Brestin tried to reach a ball from Josey, failed and Hill hit number two.

Huntley and Palmer tackled quickly after the interval and in doing so hit the post twice. But their third attempt by Richardson succeeded, leaving the Saints reeling at 3-0, after 48 minutes.

In the 55th minute, Ralph Anderson was sent when he hit the cross-bar but Clark was quick to seize the rebound and scored.

Fifteen minutes later Clark had to retire with a leg injury he had received earlier in the match and Bill Greenall came on with Brian Bennett moving into his erstwhile centre-forward position.

This paid off, for two minutes later from a throw-in, Bob Shepherd centred and Bennett ran in to score.

With two minutes to go it looked as if the equaliser must come when John Heath took the ball into the other half, pushed out to Chapman on the wing who centred. John Heath hit a strong shot but a defender somehow got in the way and the ball was cleared offside as the whistle blew.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C.

Saturday, February 1st — 3 p.m.
WYCOMBE RESERVES

WOKING RESERVES
Loakes Park